

ANZIO REPORT

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[redacted] were dropped 10 kms east of Esslingen (?) and only a 150 metres away from the pinpoint. The drop took place at one in the morning and the next four hours were spent in burying their equipment. In jumping [redacted] injured his hand, cutting it from finger to palm, and he later had to have it treated in a hospital in Stuttgart. They buried the two W/T sets and took with them the signal plans, crystals and two J&E instruments.

Between 11 and 12 of the following morning they arrived in the town of Buch where [redacted] grandmother lived. This house was on the outskirts of the town and as they passed they could see that it was completely boarded up and shuttered. A child whom [redacted] stopped told them that the Grandmother was in the hospital. On the way to the town [redacted] that she, as well as her brother were being watched for by the Gestapo, and that she could not go into Buch itself. [redacted] claims that this was the first he had known of the fact.

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On the way they ran into a Chef de Garde champetre who followed along behind them and finally stopped them. [redacted] used the cover story that he was looking for a friend of his, a good Nazi, who had told him to look him up in the town of Buch. Inasmuch as there two towns of this name in the region he could, if his story were checked, say that the man lived in the other town. By that time they were followed by four people. [redacted] made a sign to [redacted] to skip and had previously arranged with her the route he was to follow so that she would know where to wait for him. When the men noticed her absence, he explained that she was a girl he had run into the night before and had <sup>spent</sup> the night with, that, inasmuch as she was from the same region, she probably did not want the fact known, etc.

[redacted] had upon his person the signal plans, codes, crystals and J&E sets which

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were wrapped in a package and addressed to a German firm. Inside the package was a letter which George Howe had written explaining that these were somethings he thought might be of interest to the firm etc. While walking into the town he stopped to admire a church, pointing out its architecture and while talking managed to throw the package over the wall of a neighboring house. He had written the times for his J&E contacts on a slip of paper camouflaged as to be a list of the men in his factory, their hours of work, sick leaves and so forth. This paper was wrapped around his passport.

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The Chef de Gendarmerie was not at the police station and it was the assistant chief who interviewed him. [redacted] protested that he could not understand why they had arrested him when he was a good Nazi looking for a friend and they replied that they were looking for enemy agents in the region. He explained his hand injury by the fact that he had ridden on a truck the night before and in jumping down to the pavement, had caught it. The police believed his story and even went with him to the Post Office to ask if there were any mail for his friend. When no trace could be found of the man, [redacted] said he must be in the other town of Buch. It turned out that there were at least 47 towns of the name of Buch and that it was a common error. They then bandaged his hand and asked him for news of Strassburg.

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Inasmuch as the Grandmother was in the hospital, he had [redacted] on his hands. She had an aunt who lived in the region and they started off for her house. All along the way they ran into people whom [redacted] recognized, even her uncle, and [redacted] put on her dark glasses and pulled her coat collar up, and she passed unsuspected.

The police interrogation had taken around two hours and they arrived at the Aunt's house late in the afternoon. She took them in and that night [redacted] went back to the parachute ground to pick up the material. The two suitcases were too heavy to carry so he left one set camouflaged. The trip going and coming was 22 kms and was made by bicycle. [redacted] here corrects himself. He first stated

that they made the trip both ways by bicycle. Later he said that they went out by bicycle and then returned on foot.)

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They left the following morning by train for Stuttgart and arrived there either on the 5th or 6th. They were not controlled on the train. Because the rails were cut, the train was forced to stop at Senven. The passengers then proceeded on foot and [REDACTED] slept that night in Senven in the Hotel de la Gare with several officers, [REDACTED] on a bed and [REDACTED] on a couch. From Senven they went to Ulm by train but had to get off the train again at Plechingen. Passing [REDACTED] off as his sister in law, he found a room for them which he later rented, explaining that he had to be away a good deal on business but would like to have the room held for him so that he would be sure and have a place to stay. He also stated to the owner that other people would come in his name to use the room.

The next day they went to Stuttgart where he hoped to find the mistress of the Mayor of Stuttgart, a Mme "M". [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] She said that she had had a great deal of trouble with the Gestapo, that she could do nothing for [REDACTED] but that [REDACTED] could sleep in her home. She later said she would put [REDACTED] up in a Jewish family nearby. At first the family agreed to rent one of their rooms but on the same day received a telegram announcing that other members of their family had been bombed out and were coming to stay with them as they had no place else to go.

[REDACTED] told Mme "M" that he was on a mission for the Americans and that he had to be in Gaggenau on the 7th to make his first J&E contact. She promised to get him a car from the Mayor but on the following morning, after a night spent in the hotel, no car was forthcoming. She was even unable to procure him a bicycle.

[REDACTED] left at six in the morning for Gaggenau and arrived at Reutlingen where they had to wait five or six hours for a train. The station was so crowded that there was hardly any room to stand and no heat whatsoever. [REDACTED] attracted an officer who later took them upstairs and gave them something to eat. This man was to become one of the members of the equipe.

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Arriving in Gaggenau, [REDACTED] to stay with one of the three sisters he had counted upon before his departure. He himself went to stay with [REDACTED], another sister. On the 8th of March he went out for his first J&E contact, having missed that of the 7th because of difficulties in transportation. He heard no BBC message or plane on the night of the 8th, and states that Bill Clark had told him that the hour and place would remain the same until contact was finally established.

He went out again on the 9th and heard the plane and voices saying "Hello Jack, Hello Jack, Hello Jack.....Ici Paul, Ici Paul, Ici Paul....." He then broke in in German and gave his name and prearranged code signal, stating immediately that the next contact should be at Esslingen. After that there was complete silence and he could no longer make himself heard.

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[REDACTED] being safely installed, he took [REDACTED] with him and went to pick up the remainder of the equipment. He went back to [REDACTED] aunt in Buck and was told by the aunt that the region was alerted and looking for a man and woman who had been parachuted in, that the man had a wounded hand etc. She allowed them to remain in her house until dark, however, and at nightfall they went into the forest and found the suitcase containing the other set. They remained in the forest for an hour to make sure that they had not been followed.

He then returned and left [REDACTED] at Gaggenau and took [REDACTED] with him to Plochingen where they installed the radio set in the room he had rented on the way through.

When everything was set up and ready they found they had no batteries. [REDACTED] was later installed at Esslingen where they tried to make contact in various <sup>places</sup> ~~endroits~~. On several occasions the radio set was installed on a farm near a factory which made parts for radios, radio equipment, etc. This location had been found for by a Swiss who formed a part of the chain [REDACTED] was in the process of establishing. Another recruit was an engineer in Esslingen who had been a friend of [REDACTED] in Strassburg.

When [REDACTED] could not make contact with the W/T set, [REDACTED] went back to his first field in Gaggenau in order to try the J&E once more. He listened to the BBC at 4 o'clock and at 8 o'clock in the evening but never heard a message for him. Between the 17th and 24th of March five contacts on the radio were tried in the region of Esslingen. On the 17th, 18th and 19th [REDACTED] was at Gaggenau with his J&E.

At Esslingen [REDACTED] (?). He states that at the time he had information on the 557th Div., the Sturm Div., the 618th Div., and the SS Adolf Hitler, all of which were in the region of Ulm.

He went out for a J&E contact again on the night of the 29/30 March at Gaggenau. On this night he heard what he thought might have been a plane talking to him but feels that this may have been auto-suggestion.

In the meantime he worked on papers for his group and hoped to set up a new chain in the region of Ulm and Memmingen which group would be able to move south as the troops retreated through Ulm. He states that at this time he had information on the movement of all German troops through to Ulm and Stuttgart but that there were no troops stationed in Stuttgart itself. When asked why he had not submitted this information he said it was too old.

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On the 10th of April [REDACTED] They took with them one set and one J&E. [REDACTED] later returned to get the other W/T set as [REDACTED] said she could not even receive on the first. (This due to the fact that we had stopped calling her by that time). On the 11th of April [REDACTED] left Esslingen in company with [REDACTED] so that if anything happened to him, she could go on through the lines and explain what had happened to the mission. Also her home at Ottenau had been bombed out.

They crossed the lines at Hilpersau on the 13th of April [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] was to remain with her grandmother and to keep trying to contact the base. [REDACTED] was to remain to cover the region of Stuttgart. He with the engineer [REDACTED] were the only two agents which Anzio kept on. He also had a [REDACTED] working with him.

ANN WILLETS

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